

The Sunday Messenger

Memorial Lutheran Church, Nevada Iowa ♦ February 28, 2021

Thanksgiving for the Word

Holy God,
our living Water, our faithful Companion, our true Guide,
by your Word you created a world with rivers and seas,
wells and springs,
and in mercy you provided water for your people in the wilderness.

For your Word with the water of baptism, we thank you, O God.

We thank you, O God.

We praise you for Christ, who joined us in our desert,
calling us to righteousness, granting forgiveness,
and walking with us into newness of life.

For Jesus, your gracious Word, we glorify you, O God.

We glorify you, O God.

Through these days of Lent we plead for your Spirit,
that strengthened by your Word,
we may care for others and for the world you made,
and work for justice and peace for all.

For your Word in our hearts and minds, we praise you, O God.

We praise you, O God.

Receive our thanksgiving, and grant us your blessing,
Holy God, now and forever.

Amen.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and
the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

Kyrie

Prayer of the Day

First Lesson *Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16*

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Psalm 22:22-31

I will declare your name | to my people;
In the midst of the assembly | I will praise you.

²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's | line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off- | spring of Israel.

²⁴For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hid- | den from them; but when they cry out, | the LORD hears them.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

²⁶The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

²⁸For dominion belongs | to the LORD,

who rules o- | ver the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.

³⁰Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,

saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!"

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Second Reading *Romans 4:15-25*

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.



Gospel *Mark 8:31-38*

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Sermon

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Lord's Prayer

Blessing

You are what God made you to be:
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
chosen as holy and beloved,
freed to serve your neighbor.
God bless you + that you may be a blessing,
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Memorial Extends Call to Pastor Kathleen Lotz! Thank you to all who participated in the congregational meeting and cast ballots to call a new pastor. Pastor Kathleen is busy making plans to move to Iowa and begin her ministry at Memorial. Details about installation and welcoming coming soon.

Devotions with Holy Communion Continue on Thursdays and Saturdays. Call the church office at 382-6509 to reserve a slot or use the new Sign Up Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094CA8AC2EA20-weekly>

In-Person Sunday School Resumes Today. Sunday School for ages 3 through 6th grade resumes in an All-Ages format Sundays at 10:00 am. Children will be masked and sit in family groups with physical distancing in place in fellowship hall.

NLC Virtual Hymn Festival: Hope Lives!

Join the National Lutheran Choir and guest artists, the Keith Hampton Singers, for a FREE virtual program blending spoken reflections, songs and familiar hymns of joy and hope with new music that speaks to our present time, inviting all people of faith to sing in joy *together!* **Sunday, March 14 @ 4pm (Central Daylight Time) @ NLCA.com**

Add or Update Your Directory Picture. Dan Stieler sent an email inviting you to add a picture to the online church directory if you have not done so or update your picture if you have. If you need assistance, please contact the church office.

Fellowship and Adult Study Resume on Sundays.

We will use Zoom as a way to connect with each other after worship. The same link will be used each week: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83367838198> For those interested in the Book of Faith adult study, a break out room will be created after a little time of fellowship.

FAITH AND LIFE TOGETHER

Prayers for Healing

Rod Dirth *brother-in-law of Ron and Gloria Jacobson*, Fred Samuelson, Gary Kluever, Harlen Johnsen, Jim Pappas, Janeen Driscoll, Darren Kluever, Jaylee Bartleson, Larry Christian, Julie Sutherland, Sheila Collingwood *Lyndsey De Vos' mother*, Lynn Harris, George Forsyth, Cassie Harrell, Jeff Sebring *son-in-law of Ernie and Marlene Ruhde*, Norma Gandrup, Linda Horn, Tom Nervig, Glenda Day, Ginny Hausner, Ken Johnson, Camden Kelsey, Cooper Leeman, Jan Cook, Margie Nahnsen